

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Council President Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson (Late), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, City Treasurer, Vincent Jones, City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, James Nolan, Interim Chief of Police, Johnny Thompson, Public Works Director

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**1.1.5. Approval of April Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Hardy to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, June 4, 2012. The motion carried.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, June 11, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Hardy and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, June 18, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2.1. John Henderson, Park & Planning Commission-Department of Parks & Recreation**

- Mr. Henderson stated that Formula 2040 is a long range plan until 2040 and the first time they had done a master plan. Recommendation for the plan will be in September.
- The first Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at the Sports & Learning Complex at 5:30p.m.
- They will come back to present the Council on the recommendation for Formula 2040, which is the long range.
- The formula is the need to provide facilities to the County the citizens had come accustomed too having.
- They want to be efficient in the way they do business. The purpose of the Master Plan for the Parks is to assess need due to expectation of the County being built. The County is growing at a fast pace
- They know they are not providing the needs of the residents, which was discovered in a survey. They want to provide better services in all communities.
- They want the community support. They will come to meet with citizens, as they want them to understand the plan and hold the elected officials accountable.
- They have a program plan and land acquisition to determine what can be provided in the future.
- They held nine public meetings and they forward to the residents of Seat Pleasant coming out in September.
- They look forward to returning to provide the Council with an update.
- Councilman Porter wanted to know if they were planning on improving any parks in the City. Mr. Henderson stated that he was not aware of any plans.

## **3. LEGISLATION**

3.1. Resolution R-13-01 Declaration and Consent to a Recess of the Seat Pleasant City Council was introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 9, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve Resolution R-13-01. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

3.2. Resolution R-13-02 Approving Contract and Grant Forms introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 9, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms

and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve Resolution R-13-02. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

3.3. Resolution R-13-03 Competitive Bid Waiver for the purchase of the Police Department Vehicles was introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 9, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve Resolution R-13-03. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

3.4. Ordinance O-13-01 Approving Park Rules and Regulations, was introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 9, 2012 and the first reading was concluded.

3.5. Ordinance O-13-04 FY2012-2013 Budget Amendment for the Purchase of Police Vehicles. It was introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 9, 2012 and the first reading was concluded.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that the development of the project is the largest development in the City, and estimated at 50 million, maybe more.
- He stated that we have suffered in regards to Economic Development.
- He stated that they need to think about the history
- He stated that they need to move forward and work together.
- Mayor Grant extended an invitation to those that do not reside in the City to purchase a vacant property.

##### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated that they attended the Strata Awards ceremony with the Mayor, as he received an award.
- He stated that we need your assistance in the future. The Fire Department may be moving out of the City.
- The Council and staff are fighting to keep the station in the City.

##### **4.3 Kevin Brenner, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief Brenner was absent from the Public Session and no report was submitted.

##### **4.4. City Administrator – Vincent E. Jones**

- Mr. Jones commended the Mayor and Human Resources Department on working to conduct the interviews for the Police Chief position.

##### **4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that he attended the GFOA Convention last month and they discussed the Public-Private Partnership and how it is common in

Canada. He stated that in Maryland it is what they use to finance infrastructure. He stated the Mayor had done an excellent job.

- He thanked the Council for their promotion and support of the Public-Private Partnership project.
- He stated that it is a legislation implemented on the state level to assist with funding projects.
- He stated that he will provide a report that will expand on the legislation.
- He stated that he developed a check list for internal controls to be approved by the Council and adopted by management.
- He stated that he will submit it to the Finance and Budget Committee.
- He stated that it is required for ALL employees to have direct deposit. He stated that if employees do not want direct deposit, they will have a prepaid debit card. This will save the City money in the production of checks.
- He stated the Finance Department report is on the information stand.

#### **4.6. Police Department – James Nolan, Interim Chief of Police**

- Sgt. Nolan, Interim Chief of Police stated that the Department will be implementing a 30 day rotating schedule shift.
- They will be broken down into three squads with two supervisors per squad.
- They are awaiting the arrival of the Code Enforcement Vehicle
- He stated that Department concern is the C-Safe Coordinator contract expired on June 30, 2012. The C-Safe Coordinator is responsible for facilitating the sharing of information disseminated between the state and the local public safety agencies in an effort to reduce crime and sure public safety.
- We have one supervisor and an office scheduled for training for E-tickets on August 14, 2012.
- The Department has 19 vehicles assigned and 6 of them are out of service.
- Councilmember Yeargin elaborated on the federal mechanism of McLaughlin in Philadelphia allowing usage of equipment for 90 days and it is a resource we can check into.
- Mayor Grant thanked Sgt. Nolan for coming to the City. He stated that he has noticed the changes in his short-time and told him to prepare to pass the baton, as they have a strong candidate.

#### **4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson showed the new Street Sweeper Signs, which will take place every Friday beginning March 1, 2013 from 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
- The same signs will be used to plow the streets with a cover.

- They have vest for the summer and winter bomber jackets for the staff of Public Works.
- He stated that the Public Works for today will need to be trained for 5.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Johnny Coleman, 12010 Chesterton Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD,  
He wanted to know if the Council could budget for a Children's Camp and encouraged the Council to continue to work to keep the Fire Department in the City.
- Jacqui Battle, 500-504 70<sup>th</sup> St., Seat Pleasant, MD  
She wanted to know if there was a cooling place in the City for when it is extremely hot and you have no electricity.  
She stated that we need a dog park in the City  
She stated that we need to have a training center for the youth to get job training skills.  
She gave commendations to whomever it is that has been cutting the trees down in the City.
- Christine Samuel-6914 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD  
She wanted to address the issue on street sweeping and weed cutting.  
She stated that there is a concern regarding the laundry facility cleanliness.  
She wanted to know the cut-off times for loud music being played.  
She wanted to know if an officer can be placed in Pleasant Homes.  
She stated that it is a lot of new people in the neighborhoods.
- Wilhelmina Evans, 617 64<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seat Pleasant, MD  
She congratulated Mayor Grant mother on her award for working at the Veterans Hospital.

Councilmember Porter stated that we have to look into areas for speed humps. We had a challenge with the funding. He stated that you will need to have someone in the area to get the signatures. The mosquito program was a budgetary process, it was sprayed. He stated that you can put signs in your yard about the dogs. We are working with Code Enforcement, as our rules are different from the County with regards to grass. Our rules supersede County and our grass height is 8"

Elmer Mims-7227 G St., Seat Pleasant, MD

He stated that he has a concern with dogs on his streets. He feels that it should be a law enforced on loose dogs. He stated that he is concerned about his block with grass and they cut it last week and bagged the grass, but left on the street.

He stated that the Newsletter is good, but they aren't reading them.

#### **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

## **6.1 Farmers Market**

- Ms. Barnes submitted a revised budget with three edits and she added 1 personnel.
- It was stated that she reduced the third item to \$120.00
- It was stated to eliminate numbers 4 and 5 and the total cost of the marker is \$4,820.00
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know about security. Ms. Barnes stated that she asked for a Police Officer in the initial proposal.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that the fee for the officer should be \$50.00 per hour.
- Councilmember Simms recommended that the discussion be tabled until the Special Session.
- Councilmember Porter wanted to know if they could have a Farmers Market with a budget of \$1,500.00. He stated that the Market Master is needed.
- Councilmember Simms asked Mr. Jones if there was an agreement between the CDC and Seat Pleasant, and who will the market belong to. Mr. Jones said it would be the CDC Market.
- Ms. Barnes stated that the Market Clerk is not needed, but they need someone to clean-up afterwards. She did not have any success in getting the farmers to sign. She has three verbal commitments.
- Councilmember Higgs stated we are not together on the figures or the paperwork. He said we cannot move forward without the information.
- Ms. Barnes stated she do not have a specific date to agree on. It is hard to get a commitment without a concrete date.
- She stated that the CDC has paid for an aerial drawing and her services for the last nine months. They have not paid the Market Master.
- Councilmember Porter stated he would like for the Council to see if we can agree to commit to \$1,500.00. He stated that we can have a shorter market.
- Councilmember Simms requested an agreement from the CDC and the allocation of the funds in the budget.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to establish an Ad-hoc Committee for the Farmers Market. The motion carried and was unanimously approved. The committee will consist of Councilmember's Yeargin, Stephenson and Higgs. Mr. Jones and Mr. Ashton will be including with the committee. They will meet on Friday, July 13, 2012 at 6:00p.m., in Council Chambers.

## **6.2. Funds for Groundbreaking Event**

- Mayor Grant provided the City Council with the requested proposal for the groundbreaking event.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the Mayor's request of the \$50,000. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.
- Councilman Raynor wanted to know if the expenses for the event will be reimbursed from the developer. Mayor Grant stated that they are reimbursable.
- FOR: Hardy, Higgs, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**


7.1. None

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8.1. Ward II Crime Prevention Training, Wednesday, July 18, 2012, Pleasant Homes Community Center-6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm

**9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 10:21p.m.

Submitted by,

  
Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk